



ON THE COVER

Friendship and fun abound in the youth organizations of the Church. L to r: Ariza and Dani.

Photo by Robin Finlinson

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BUILDING BRIDGES

Arizona InterFaith Movement's Annual Golden Rule Awards Celebration Welcomes 19 Faith Communities

By Emily Jex Boyle

What does it take to build a bridge that will last? Concrete, steel, timber, stone and composite materials like fiber-reinforced polymers are crucial, according to experts. In Arizona, bridges span wide and most often dry washes connecting communities such as the Gilbert Road Bridge which connects the City of Mesa to State Route 87. Through the years, this particular connection at the Salt River has been rebuilt following high waters that caused closures and necessary rebuilding of the connection. Bridges matter in Arizona.

The Arizona InterFaith Movement has been seeking to build bridges for two decades. The components of the bridges they seek to create are found in their mission statement: understanding, respect, and support among diverse people of faith through educa-

tion, dialogue, service, and the implementation of the Golden Rule. Over the years, the movement has fostered community on a foundation of faith. Arizona is considered the first Golden Rule state. Golden Rule cities include: Apache Junction, Chandler, Flagstaff, Fountain Hills, Gilbert, Mesa, Queen Creek, Scottsdale, Surprise, and Tempe.

Marcus Johnson, a member of the Arizona InterFaith Movement is quick to share his thoughts on the value he

sees in the movement. "These are challenging times. We can all agree that we should pray. We can agree on this. We do well to be with each other, to break bread with each other."

For two decades, the Arizona InterFaith Movement has been recognizing individuals, businesses, organizations and youth who model the Golden Rule in their lives and community. Previous honorees through the years are listed on the website.

This year's Golden Rule Awards Celebration will be held September 4, 2025 at the Tempe Center for the Arts. Tickets were sold out in the months leading up to the event. The Golden Rule Awards embraces a powerful culture of music, dance and interfaith community. 19 faith communities will be represented at the InterFaith Fair, with time to visit with community members about their

Arizona InterFaith Movement Vision

Our Vision is a world of harmony, good will and peace among persons of all faiths where the Golden Rule is a universal way of life.

We believe that every religion and many secular ethics have some form of the Golden Rule that it teaches its members to live by.

We seek to promote the Golden Rule in all that we do.

We are not a political organization, and we don't offer commentary on political issues. Rather, we are an

organization whose commitment to the principle of doing right by one another is the foundation of the actions we take.

We seek to educate one another about the diverse religious backgrounds that make up our membership, and find common ground between those who hold differing viewpoints.

Continued on pg. 5

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

I recently watched one of my most favorite talks: President Monson's "Dare To Stand Alone" from the October 2011 Priesthood Session of General Conference. You may recall that during this talk he tells a story about a time when he stood alone while in Navy boot camp. After his commanding officer ordered the Catholics, the Jews and the Protestants in his company to church, then Recruit Monson found himself standing alone in recognition of the fact that he was not a member of any of the faiths listed by his CO!

"Instantly there flashed through my mind the thought, 'Monson, you are not a Catholic; you are not a Jew; you are not a Protestant. You are a Mormon, so you just stand here!' I can assure you that I felt completely alone. Courageous and determined, yes—but alone.

"And then I heard the sweetest words I ever heard that chief petty officer utter. He looked in my direction and asked, 'And just what do you guys call yourselves?' Until that very moment I had not realized that anyone was standing beside me or behind me on the drill ground. Almost in unison, each of us replied, 'Mormons!' It is difficult to describe the joy that filled my heart as I turned around and saw a handful of other sailors.

"As we marched away [to church], I thought of the words of a rhyme I had learned in Primary years before:"

***Dare to be a Mormon;
Dare to stand alone.
Dare to have a purpose firm;
Dare to make it known.***

In October 2018, President Nelson directed members of the Church to stop referring to ourselves as Mormons. "Jesus Christ directed us to call the Church by His name because it is His Church, filled with His power," exclaimed President Nelson. And thus, we effectively excommunicated the moniker "Mormon" from our vocabulary. At this point it almost feels like a slur when saying or hearing any member of the Church referred to as Mormon.

Except when the word is used online to disparage our faith. My reaction to negative falsehoods attributed to "Mormons" tends to be "You're darn right I am a Mormon. And proud of it!"

In our increasingly godless world, The Arizona Beehive stands as a beacon to Members, and as a threat to some in our community. Our display racks are periodically vandalized, their stock of magazines trashed. Distribution locations on occasion ask to have our little stack removed from their places of businesses when customers complain about having "religious" or "Mormon" materials on display. But I continue to stand alone with this publication. Because I have you standing behind us, and I have a purpose firm - to uplift and enlighten our population of Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (You know ... "The Mormons!"). And I dare to make it known.

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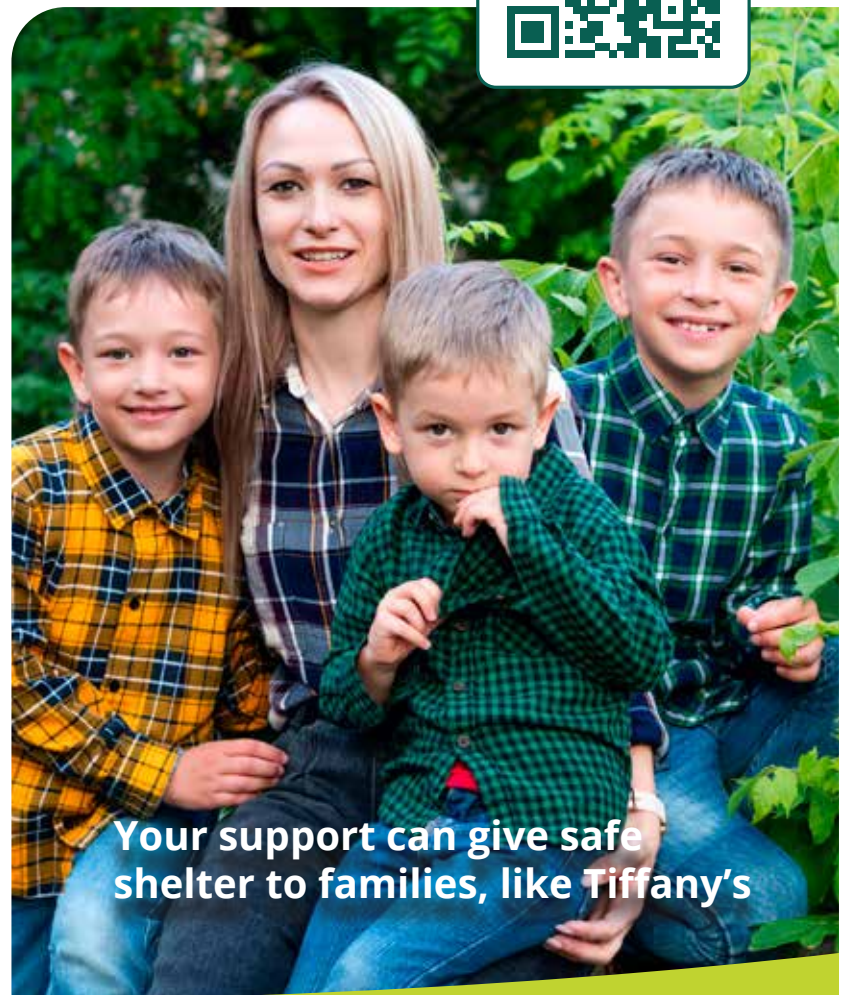
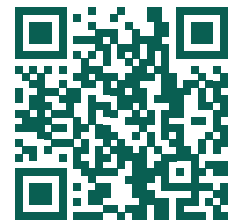
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beliefs and religion. "This event offers the opportunity to bring together our faith across a broad community," Johnson explains, "honoring what is common and diverse among us."

The program will include a performance by the First Institutional Baptist Choir. It will also include Hindu dancing, followed by an award ceremony recognizing this year's Golden Rule recipients.

This year's recipients include: Bishop John P. Dolan, Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr., Elizabeth White, Rusty Bowers, Azra Hussain, Sean Stoddard, Dr. Jaswant Sachdev, and Jacob Denlinger. To highlight a few:

Bishop John Dolan will be honored. According to the Diocese of Phoenix website, Since August 2022, Dolan has served as the bishop of one of the fastest growing Roman Catholic dioceses in the U.S. In 2022, Dolan established the diocesan Office of Mental Health Ministry. The initiative, one of the first of its kind in the U.S., has gained international attention. Since his ministry as bishop began three years ago, he is finding ways to connect with the community, including the youth, young adults and families affected by suicide. This year, he was named an "Unsung Mental Health Hero" from the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI).

Elizabeth White will also be honored. At 102, White is the owner of The Golden Rule Cafe, one of the Valley's "oldest and longest" owned and operated African American establishments. Also called, "Mrs. White's," A divorced mother of five, she and her four youngest children moved to Phoenix in the 1960's to help her brother Floyd Jimmerson in the church and in his restaurant. According to the Historical League website, bank loans for African

Americans were difficult and for a Black woman in business (impossible) in those days. Dr. Lincoln and Eleanor Ragsdale, local activists loaned \$500 to White through their loan company. Her hearty soul food cooking through the years welcomed legends such as Jesse Jackson, Sen. John McCain, Alvan Adams, and Charles Barkley. White, an ordained past of Jesus, the Church of the Living God, believes in feeding the spirit and the body. In her words, "We try to be good because that is what the Golden Rule means."

Jacob Denlinger and fellow students will be receiving the youth award. Together with a group of students from Brophy High School in Phoenix, Denlinger organized a day of service. They pledged to complete projects at a wide array of community sites: AZ Helping Hands, A New Leaf, Catholic Charities, Hospice of the Valley White Dove Thrift Stores, Lutheran Social Services, Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center, Saint Vincent de Paul Urban Farm, and the

City of Phoenix. 330 students wore red shirts on the day of service.

In Arizona and nationally, it seems we could use more of these kinds of bridges (and bridgebuilders)--especially these days.

For more information about this year's Golden Rule honorees, past honorees and general information about the Arizona Interfaith Movement, visit www.azifm.com



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Golden Rule Awards Celebration



Bishop John P. Dolan



Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr.



Elizabeth White



Rusty Bowers



Azra Hussain



Sean Stoddard



Dr. Jaswant Sachdev



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Retreat From The World

5 General Conference Traditions to Start (or Restart) this October

By Allison Beckert

Twice a year we're given the opportunity to retreat from the world and attend General Conference to hear the word of the Lord directly through His prophets and apostles. Often the weekend flies by in a blur. Consider rekindling your Conference experience with a tradition that suits your season of life.

1 For Solo Viewers: *Build a Personal Ritual*

Watching Conference alone doesn't have to feel isolating. A solo viewing opportunity can become a deeply personal spiritual retreat. Try setting up a space just for the occasion. Light a candle, bring out your favorite blanket, bake something sweet. Use a dedicated notebook or journaling app just for Conference insights and impressions. Between sessions, go for a walk and reflect on what stood out. You're not alone, you're part of a worldwide gathering.

2 For Families with Small Children: *Tangible and Tactile*

It's a well known fact that little ones can't sit through every talk, but they can still feel the spirit of the day. There are colorful and cre-

ative resources all over the internet and within ward primaries for helping small children get the most possible out of conference weekend. You can print out Prophet and Apostle Bingo cards, prepare a "Conference snack box," or let each child build a blanket "Conference tent" like the Nephites. Make room for wiggles, and celebrate small wins like catching a keyword or recognizing the Prophet's voice. Keep it light, keep it loving, keep it fun.

3 For Families with Grown Children: *Old Memories with New Meaning*

If you're watching with teens or young adults, consider anchoring the weekend in family nostalgia: serve a traditional breakfast, revisit a favorite family hymn, or watch a session in pajamas like you used to. This works well with my family. We make a point of spending time on a cornhole tournament in between sessions in the nice weather. After the Conference, consider inviting everyone to share a takeaway talk—or even turn it into a family group text or message thread. Honor the past while making space for grown-up testimonies and mature insights.



Activities for small children. Photo by Aline Ponce from Pixabay

4 For Couples: *Set Intentions Together*

Couples have a unique opportunity to use Conference weekend as a relationship reset point. Before the first session, take a few minutes to each write down a question you hope to have answered. Afterward, share what stood out and how the talks might guide your family or goals for the next six months. A post-Conference walk, dinner, or temple grounds visit can become a quiet ritual that brings spiritual unity into your partnership.



Long distance but still together. Photo by Amr from Pixabay

5 For Long-Distance Families: *Bridge the Gap*

Even if you're miles apart, you can still experience Conference "together." This is a chance to make the most of what we all learned during the home study stretch of the pandemic. Set up a family group chat or video call to share favorite quotes and insights as the weekend unfolds. You might each pick a talk to "present" during a post-Conference call, or assign each person to summarize one session. Create a shared Google Doc or photo album where everyone can contribute highlights. The Spirit transcends distance and so can family love.

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John Giles: A New Leaf Board Member

A Letter to the Community



John Giles
Photo courtesy of A New Leaf

Dear Readers,

For most of my life, I've worked to make Mesa a stronger, safer, and more compassionate city. As a former Mayor and City Councilmember, I've seen firsthand what happens when people fall through the cracks, and I've seen the hope and transformation that's possible when a community steps in to help.

My years in public service taught me that lasting change doesn't happen by accident. It comes when people, inspired by a higher calling, come together to care for their neighbors. That's why I've always been committed to giving and serving. My faith calls me to love my neighbor, serve the least among us, and use whatever gifts I've been given to lift others up.

That's what drew me to A New Leaf. For years, I've partnered with this incredible organization, and I can say without hesitation that they are leading the way in addressing homelessness in our region. They provide shelter, and offer food, housing, and long-term solutions that change the trajectory of people's lives. It's the kind of hands-on compassion that mirrors my faith-based values.

The need in our community is great, but I believe we can rise to meet it. Your gifts, whether time, resources, or both, are acts of faith in action. They change lives every single day.

I'm honored to continue my service at A New Leaf, and I invite you to join me. Together, we can put love into action and create a lasting impact for families and individuals who need us most.

John Giles
Board Member, A New Leaf
Former Mayor of Mesa

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Founded in 2007, MCO® consists of over 5,000 participants in California, Arizona, Texas, Utah, Idaho, and Kansas City. Each locale is comprised of four non-auditioned choirs for youth separated into the Young Singers Chorus for ages four through first grade, the Children's Chorus for second through fifth grade, the Youth Chorus for sixth through eighth grades, and the Concert Choir for ninth through 12th grade. The auditioned Grand Chorus is for those 18 and over, and the Symphony Orchestra is for auditioned (unpaid) volunteers.

As their website proclaims: "MCO was founded for the purpose of teaching and encouraging excellence in quality sacred and classical music. Its primary purpose is to fulfill the need for more refined music education and performance in our communities, with a focus on God and country."

Some of their past productions have focused on the First Vision and the founding of America, and their grand production in spring of 2025 was *Messiah in America*, which was a fully staged and dramatized presentation of the appearance of Jesus Christ to the Americas as described in Third Nephi.

What do participants have to say about their experience? Jenni Richardson from Provo, Utah reflects: "It's wonderful being a part of an organization that changes lives. It's a great experience, singing challenging and compelling music that stirs people's souls. It is also really fun to see two musical geniuses at work in the Stewart brothers. Their desire for excellence makes us all rise to the occasion."

Sixteen-year-old Ellie Johnson of Mesa, Arizona adds: "My favorite thing about MCO was concert week. I loved seeing how much we accomplished when we came together to perform."

Eighteen-year-old Ackensah Stradling, who participated in MCO in both Mesa and Kansas City shares, "MCO gave me a purpose and an outlet for expressing what's in my heart through the heavenly language of music. It provided a rich environment for testimony building and sharing which is so very needed for those in my generation. Our conductors take time and



Photo credit Ken Richardson

A scene from *Messiah in America*.



Photo credit Ken Richardson

Stradling family at an MCO performance.

effort to create and maintain the correct and beautiful sounds and structure that make up MCO. Their mantra 'Diction, Passion, Testimony' really sums up what MCO stands for. I love MCO!!"

Ken Richardson from Provo sums it up: "The

Continued on pg. 22



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THE GOSPEL IN A WORD

By Emily Jex
Boyle

Abundant

While traveling with my parents this summer, my dad shared a new perspective on the word *abundant*. As a Latin language lover, he broke down the word. He pointed out that “ab-” is a prefix meaning “away from” and the word “unda” means “a wave or waves of the sea, stream or tide, etc.” The Latin verb *abundare* translates “to be plentiful” as well as “to overflow.”

In the Bible, the apostle John quoted Jesus having taught this: “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it *more abundantly*.” (John 10:10, emphasis added)

Usually when the word *abundant* makes its appearance, I tend to have an image of the first mentioned definition--a bounteous feast on an extremely long table, with wide varieties of colors and deliciousness. This definition, in my opinion, evokes feelings of steadiness, constancy, always there.

As a self-proclaimed mermaid, I was really happy to learn of another scripture word directly tied to water. As I dove into this other meaning with my dad, I loved picturing the way blessings from heaven seem to surface in life.

It brought up this question: What if being blessed

abundantly doesn’t always mean that the bounteous and plentiful feast is ever-present?

Perhaps you’re like me, and you love sitting on the shore of a beach anywhere, watching ocean waves break and crash on the sand. Even though many of us, this mermaid included, are not blessed with strong sea legs, why is it that we can spend an hour or more mesmerized by this powerful, beautiful, blue ebb and flow from the shore?

If God’s abundant blessings are more wave-like, it seems that this leaves divine space in our lives for times and seasons when the table may seem less. Empty chairs and tables are the stuff of songs. The passing of time or the temptation to see the greener grass growing elsewhere could lead us to wonder whether our lives are really blessed abundantly.

Are we living life somehow wrong if we don’t feel like our life is more abundant?

In his 2006 General Conference talk, Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin shared, “Fully understood and embraced, the gospel of Jesus Christ heals broken hearts, infuses meaning into lives, binds loved ones together with ties that transcend mortality, and brings to life a sublime joy.

“I have heard some claim, perhaps only partly in jest, that the only happy people are those who sim-



Photo Courtesy of Emily Boyle

If God’s abundant blessings are more wave-like, it seems that this leaves divine space in our lives for times and seasons when our lives may seem less than bounteous.

ply don’t have a firm grasp of what is happening around them. But I believe otherwise. I have known many who walk in joy and radiate happiness. I have known many who live lives of abundance.”

Elder Wirthlin continues, “The abundant life comes through faith, hope and charity. And it comes to those who, in spite of hardship and sorrow, understand the words of one writer who said, ‘In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer’...The abundant life isn’t something we arrive at. Rather, it is a magnificent journey that began long, long ages ago and will never, never end.”

When considering God’s divine, overflowing, bounteous grace, ever-accessible to humanity, Psalm 23:5 seems to fit both mentioned meanings of this word: “Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over.”

Let’s seek out the abundance in our lives.

Connect Your Living Family Group Tree

By Glen K Tolman

In past years at RootsTech, especially in 2024, FamilySearch has indicated that they are working on methods to share living family members on the FamilyTree similar to how deceased relatives are shared. This option is now available using Family Groups.

My family has used the group feature on FamilySearch temple for several years making it much easier to share temple ordinances including baptisms, endowments and sealings with our family which includes siblings, children and grandchildren. FamilySearch has expanded the group feature which is now titled “Family Groups.” Family Groups are accessible under the drop down menu under FamilyTree or by selecting your name in the upper right corner of any FamilySearch page in the same area where you select “Settings” or “Sign Out.”

Here is a description of Family Groups Trees from FamilySearch that lets families work together on living family members as well as deceased family members.

Family group trees are a

type of family group that allows families to work together in Family Tree. In a family group tree, group participants can add or modify information about the same living persons within the same tree. This includes being able to add and view memories and sources—everything you can do now with deceased persons. In a family group tree, all group members can see and edit all the same people, including living people.

Here is a quote from FamilySearch about family group trees. (To read more search under help using “family group trees.”)

“With family group trees, we hope to provide FamilySearch users with several important benefits: Gather your family into a group and see the same pedigree. Involve your family in navigating their family history as a team. Enrich your history with photos, stories, and sources. Share memories and milestones while they are still fresh and protect everyone’s online privacy. Ensure that future generations of your family can ac-

cess this information to learn about your life.”

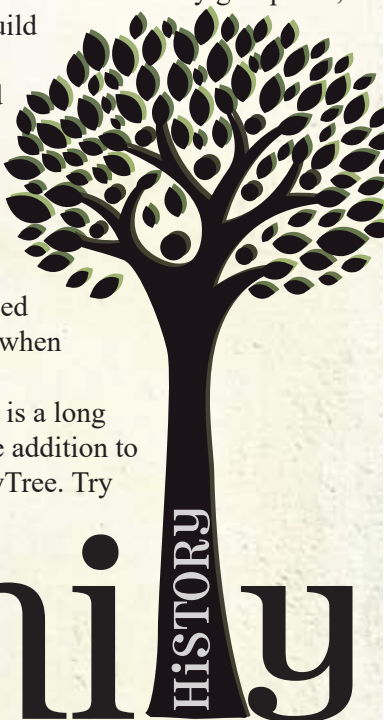
One of the benefits of the family group tree occurs when parents set up FamilySearch accounts for their children. Once an account is setup, parents can connect the child to the family group tree and immediately see their family tree including living and deceased ancestors. Without the family group tree, the child needs to “build a bridge” of living ancestors to deceased ancestors. This means that living direct line ancestors need to be added to the child’s tree creating duplicates that need to be combined later when ancestors pass away.

Family group tree is a long awaited and welcome addition to FamilySearch/FamilyTree. Try this option today.



Image from FamilySearch

Working Together Building Our Family Tree.



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By Hillary
Jade Fevrier

Fun Fall Festivals for Families

Whether you're craving corn mazes, pumpkin patches, or spooky downtown strolls, Arizona's autumn offerings deliver big fun for families. Below are four top-tier events packed with seasonal magic, organized to help you plan your fall adventures.

City of Chandler Halloween Spooktacular

Enjoy some quality time as you trick-or-treat your way through Downtown Chandler. This free event includes festive booths, carnival games, and over 300 pounds of candy. Two costume parades for all ages will take place at 6:15 and 7:30. The Little Monsters Zone caters to kids 5 and under, making this a perfect Halloween night out for all ages.

Place: Dr. A.J. Chandler Park | Stage Plaza
178 E Commonwealth Ave, Chandler, AZ

Date: Fri, Oct 31, 2025

Time: 5:30–8:30pm

Cost: Free admission

Web: chandleraz.gov/events/halloween-spooktacular

Mother Nature's Farm Pumpkin Patch

Voted Arizona's best pumpkin patch, Mother Nature's Farm offers pumpkins from 1 oz to 500 lbs, a straw-bale maze, farm animals, pedal cars, a corn pit, and bounce houses. Bring a picnic, shop at Maneau's Market, and enjoy shady fields perfect for a day of family fun. Admission to the farm includes: hayride, straw bale maze, bounce house, and more!

Place: 1663 E Baseline Rd, Gilbert, AZ

Date: Sept 21 – Oct 31, 2025

Hours: Daily, 9am–9pm

Cost: \$15 per person (2 and under free)

Web: mothernaturesfarm.com/pumpkinpatch

Vertuccio Farms Fall Festival

Celebrate cooler days in Arizona's longest-running corn maze! This family-friendly event features hayrides, petting zoos, tube slides, pedal cars, and a giant jump pad. It's the perfect mix of classic fall fun and hands-on activities. See website for promotions and discounts!

Place: 4011 S. Power Rd, Mesa, AZ

Date: Oct 3 – Nov 2, 2025

Hours: Wed–Thu: 3 to 9pm; Fri–Sat: 9am–10pm;
Sun: 12–7pm

Cost: \$17 per person (2 and under free)

Web: vertucciofarms.com/events/fall-festival

Pumpkin & Chili Party at Schnepf Farms

Schnepf Farms' fall events can't be missed. The farm transforms into a theme-park-style autumn playground with pig races, chili cook-offs, roller coasters, a huge pumpkin patch, train rides, and fireworks. Live music and market vendors round out this full-day celebration of all things fall.

Place: 24810 S. Rittenhouse Rd, Queen Creek, AZ

Date: Every Thu–Sun in Oct (last day: Oct 31, 2025)

Hours: Thu: 12–9pm; Fri & Sat: 12–10pm;
Sun: 10am–9pm

Cost: ~\$27 (2 and under free)
\$15 for military/first responders at gate

Web: schnepffarms.com/events-on-the-farm

There is no shortage of excellent options when it comes to finding an adventure for the whole family this fall. With so many magical possibilities, this fall is sure to be one that will last in hearts and minds for years to come. These events hold the key to creating unforgettable memories, memories just waiting to be made this spooky season in the East Valley.



Image courtesy of LDSPMA

LDSPMA Conference *welcomes* LDS Authors, Actors, Musicians & Other Creators

By Cecily Markland Condie

"Our Work, His Glory" will be the Latter-day Saints in Publishing, Media and the Arts (LDSPMA) conference theme this October 16-18, as more than 450 Latter-day Saint artists, musicians, authors, editors, media professionals and other creators gather for networking, support and professional development. This conference has been held annually since 2015 and is recognized as a prime opportunity to "seek inspiration and support in a faith-fostering environment."

According to the conference website, "It is our hope that the skills, principles, and techniques you will learn, along with the people you will meet, will enable you to more effectively consecrate your artistic influence to the work and glory of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

This year's conference features four keynote speakers, beginning on Friday morning with Sheri Dew, CEO of Deseret Book Company and former member of the Relief Society General Presidency and followed that afternoon by J. Scott Savage, award-winning author of 23 published novels for adults and children. The Saturday sessions will open with keynote speaker, Brad Pelo, executive producer of "The Chosen" television series, and, that afternoon, Harry and Debra Bonner, of the Bonner Family, a leading Christian performing group will speak.

In addition, the 2005 LDSPMA Conference will feature eight tracks with more than 53 breakout sessions led by leaders sharing best practices and industry secrets. Past attendees say they not only have felt inspired and uplifted by the conference, but have gained knowledge and tools that have helped them take a more professional approach to furthering a career in the arts.

The LDSPMA Conference will be held at the Utah Valley University Sorensen Center in Orem, Utah, and also offers a virtual only option. For more information or to register, visit ldspma.org. Beehive readers will receive a 10 percent discount by entering this code at registration: Beehive2025

ALWAYS ABOUT PEOPLE

Gary Fleming Recognized with 2025 Life Member Award

By Cecily Markland Condie

The Arizona Society of Certified Public Accountants (ASCPA) honored Arizona native, Gary Fleming, with the prestigious 2025 Life Member Achievement Award, awarded to ASCPA members “who have provided outstanding service and leadership to the ASCPA and the CPA profession.” According to family, friends, co-workers and colleagues, Fleming’s award is well-deserved, reflecting not only a life-long commitment and dedication to his profession—but, also an ongoing legacy of learning, leadership, mentoring and making an impact for the future.

Fleming’s introduction at the annual meeting in May included these words, “Being in accounting, it is easy to get lost in the technical aspects of the work – the numbers so to speak. For Gary though, it’s always been about people. Gary has selflessly given his time over and over so that others may be successful in their life, whether that was a colleague,

a client or a future CPA. We are grateful for leaders in the CPA community like Gary who hold themselves with integrity and kindness in all they do.”

Fleming, who was raised on the west side of Phoenix in Maryvale, was first introduced to finance when earning a personal finance merit badge as a Boy Scout. After high school, he took classes at Glendale Community College. Then, as a missionary in Auckland, New Zealand, he served as the mission’s financial secretary. With this early foundation and interest in accounting, Fleming went on to graduate from Brigham Young University’s Marriott School of Management, School of Accountancy, with a bachelor’s and master’s degree in accounting with a specialization in tax.

Fleming, who retired recently, had been a practicing CPA in Arizona for 40 years, mostly with Henry & Horne CPAs, the largest locally owned firm, where he was a partner and firm-wide director of taxation for more than 20 years. His contributions to the profession include being appointed by Governor Janet Napolitano to the CPA regulatory body, the State Board of Accountancy, serving a five-year term, one as president. He also served on the ASCPA board of directors for several years, as Chair of the Arizona Department of Revenue and IRS Liaison committees for several years.

An article in the March/April 2025 AZ CPA, by Rosa Hernandez quoted former co-worker Donald Bays, who called Fleming, “one of the smartest tax professionals I’ve ever known.” Another long-time colleague and partner at Henry & Horne, Wendell



Fleming receives award.

Jones, was also quoted in the article, saying, “All his clients loved him. All the partners loved him. It wasn’t all about him. It was about others for Gary.”

He and his wife, Gayle, are parents of five and have 17 grandchildren. They are currently serving a member leader support mission for the Church in the Washington Tacoma Mission, having previously served an MLS mission in Pennsylvania Pittsburg. Among other things, Fleming served as BYU Management Society President, as a member of Mesa Arts Center Foundation, with Mesa United Way and volunteered at Midwest Food Bank.

“What’s been the most fulfilling for me is seeing others have success and to be able to contribute to that,” Fleming says.



Gary Fleming with his wife, Gayle, five children and 17 grandchildren.



Gary Fleming and his wife, Gayle, are currently serving as member leader support missionaries for the Church in the Washington Tacoma Mission.

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While hitching a ride from my friend to the repair shop one day to pick up my truck, he said, “Hey, when your repair bills are more than the truck is worth, AND you have your mechanic’s phone number memorized, it might be time for a new truck!”

By Mark Randall



The Book Was Better

2025 ANWA CONFERENCE

By Barbie VanCott
Photos courtesy of the author

Are you a writer? Are you interested in writing? Then plan to attend this year's American Night Writers Association (ANWA) Annual Conference.

Now celebrating a membership of over 400 across multiple states, the ANWA is a unique professional organization for writers who belong to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It helps writers on all levels and genres by matching them into writers critique groups. The purpose of each group is to encourage, assist, and educate the members to write.

This year's conference theme is "The Book was Better." The keynote speaker is Newbery Honor Award winning author Gail Carson Levine, where she will inspire the over 200 writers expected to attend the event.

Levine has been writing since the 1970s. Her first published novel was *Ella Enchanted*, which was accepted for publication by Harper Trophy. Levine recalls, "That day, April 17,

1996, was one of the happiest in my life." The book was published in 1997, and in 1998, it received the Newbery Honor. It would later be the inspiration for the 2004 film of the same name. The success of *Ella Enchanted* made it possible for Levine to retire from government work and pursue writing full-time.

In addition to being the keynote speaker, Levine will also teach a class on writing historical fiction. Additionally, other conference faculty members will present: author/editor Lisa Mangum, author Brad McBride, USA Today bestselling author Annette Lyon, and local author Tyson Abaroa.



Keynote Speaker Gail Carson Levine.

Event highlights include: Pitches with agents and editors, a Thursday critique workshop, a costume gala, and a BOB (Beginning of Book) Writing Contest. Classes that cover writing, editing, publishing, and marketing are also on the agenda. A bookstore where various authors have their books on display for purchase will be available. And each ticketed attendee receives lunch at



Author Barbie VanCott displays her Beginning of Book contest 1st prize.

the event.

Writers attending ANWA Annual Conferences make new friends with fellow writers, learn new skills and have many of their questions answered. Many come away from the experience feeling inspired and re-committed to writing.

The conference will be held September 18th - 20th, 2025 at the Doubletree by Hilton, 1011 West Holmes Ave., Mesa, AZ 85210.

This year, a Saturday-only ticket option has been added to accommodate writers who cannot attend any of the other conference days but still would like to hear from the keynote speaker. Registration for the conference is open. To register for the conference, visit americannightwriters.org.

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By Robin
Finlinson

Come Follow Me

This article supports the readings in the manual titled *Come, Follow Me—For Home and Church* for September-October, 2025, in Doctrine and Covenants Sections 94-123.

Jesus Christ Established Means for Delivering Justice & Mercy

The Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual states, “Christ taught the Nephites, saying, ‘I am the law’ (3 Nephi 15:9), meaning that he is the embodiment and the source of all law to mankind. He is not only the source of law and commandments given to men, but he provides the law, or organizing power, for the whole universe.” (pp. 393-4)

The Lord’s statement in D&C 101:80 should therefore not be surprising—making clear who it was that brought forth The Constitution of the United States. He said, “And for this purpose have I established the Constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men whom I raised up unto this very purpose...” What is that purpose? The previous verse reveals it, declaring that “it is not right that any man should be in bondage one to another.”

Forms of bondage exist throughout history. (D&C 121:34-40) But the Lord created a land in which could exist laws based on “just and holy principles,” designed to ensure the freedom of ev-

ery individual. (Mosiah 29:25; Ether 2:8, 12; D&C 98:5-6; 101:77)

In the 1840’s, an admirer of the U.S. Constitution, Frédéric Bastiat of France, exhorted people to “try liberty—liberty, which is an act of faith in God and in His work.” (*The Law*, p. 55)

Notice that the Lord’s representative form of government in this promised land has numerous similarities to that of His Church—with a Presidency, down to local leadership, sustained by the voice of the people. In Old Testament times, beginning with Adam, the Lord established a presiding officer—namely, a prophet. In 1835, the Lord set up the Presidency of the Church, with three men that include the Prophet/President, as He likewise had with Peter, James and John. (Amos 3:7; Matt. 16:18-19; 17:1-4; D&C 107:22)

Also, in New Testament times, the Lord put together the Quorum of Twelve Apostles as traveling representatives. (Luke 6:13) During the Last Supper, He gave a hint about the reestablishment

of that quorum in the last days, which occurred in 1835. (See Matt. 26:29; D&C 27; 107) Beginning in Moses’ day, and including the time the Lord lived on earth, He has also called men to be traveling “Seventy.” (Ex. 24:1, 9; Num. 11:16; Ezek. 8:11; Luke 10:1, 17; D&C 107)

Apostles and General Authority Seventies don’t make laws or doctrine. That is left to the Lord. However, like members of the Senate and House of Representatives, they are regularly in the presence of the Presidency and able to report the people’s needs to that executive body. They can also bear witness to the people of the Presidency’s goals, actions and love for them.

Finally, the Twelve Apostles are among those who act in councils of 12 to judge. (Matt. 19:28; D&C 107:72, 79, 84) Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution states that criminal trials “shall be by Jury.” The tradition of 12-person juries is known to date back to at least 829 A.D. with the Frankish Inquest.

America has righteous law for our “supreme Law of the Land.” (Article VI) Modifications are occasionally, appropriately made. But President J. Reuben Clark, Jr. warned in the April, 1935 General Conference that “the fundamental principles of it we may not sacrifice.” Frédéric Bastiat called righteous law “organized justice.” (*The Law*, p. 16)

Since Jesus Christ is the Deliverer of both Justice and Mercy, could we not say that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—established merely 43 years after the supreme law was signed—is organized mercy? The Church takes Christ’s gospel of repentance and His saving ordinances to each soul who has lived throughout the world and throughout all time, offering the opportunity to personally put to use His merciful Atoning Sacrifice. (Lev. 17:11; Isa. 53:6; Matt. 26; 1 Peter 4:6; 2 Nephi 2:7)

And in due time, Jesus, with Adam, will bring justice, even “a redress of grievances” to all people (including the “saints”) who are wronged. (Amendment I; Hel. 13:14; D&C 109:24-48; 121:7-25; 123; 134:2, 6, 11; Daniel 7:9-14, 21-22; Rev. 11:17-18; 13:10; 14:12; 16:6; 17:5-6; 18:20, 24)

It requires organization to deliver Justice and Mercy to all the children of God, and as the dispensation of the fulness of times was dawning, Jesus Christ Himself officially organized their means of delivery. (Ether 4:15-18; D&C 112:30)

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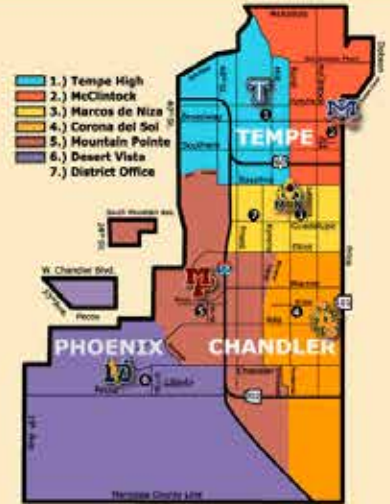


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Peace After Tragedy

"Severed is a gripping memoir of trauma, resilience, and a life-altering accident. *Severed* is a true story of a woman who found healing by confronting her pain—and re-claiming her worth," says author Sandra Jarvis.

Sandra Jarvis is a trauma recovery coach, author, and speaker who empowers women to reclaim their words and rewrite their stories—with truth, grit, and zero apologies.

Jarvis says her writing journey began early in life. "On my eighth birthday, I got a journal—and I've been writing ever since. By high school, I knew that someday I'd use the stories I was recording to do something bigger. To encourage and inspire. I didn't know how or when. Then the accident happened. And suddenly, the 'someday' became 'now.'"

It took four years to write the book. Jarvis says, "I wrote in pieces—story by story, memory by memory—

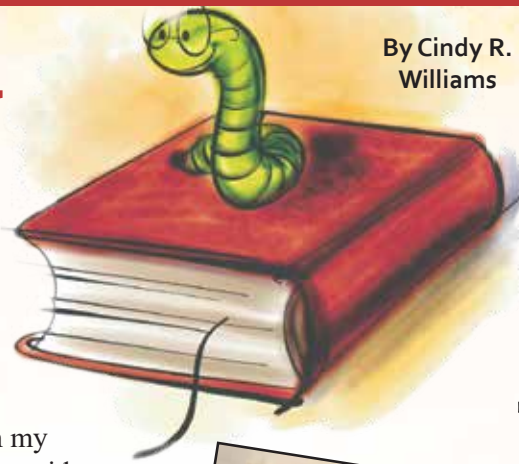
pausing to breathe and process in between. When I finally realized how powerful this story could be, I got support. With encouragement from my husband, I hired a coach to guide me through preparing it for publication. From there, it took about eighteen months to shape it into something I could share with the world."

Jarvis says, "The hardest part to write was the chapter about my childhood sexual abuse. Putting it into words was gut-wrenching. Necessary. Healing. And ultimately... not ready for the world. I ended up pulling it before publishing, but writing that chapter cracked something open in me. It was a turning point in my healing journey."

"If there's one thing I've learned, it's that healing isn't about forgetting your

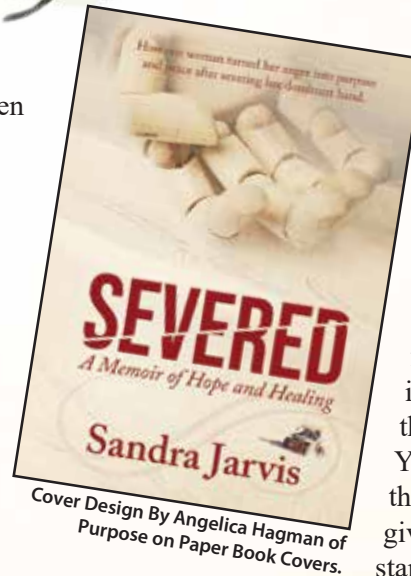


Author Sandra Jarvis.



By Cindy R. Williams

Beehive BOOK Reviews



Cover Design By Angelica Hagman of Purpose on Paper Book Covers.

story—it's about reclaiming it. I want every woman who reads *Severed* to walk away feeling just a little more whole, a little more seen, and a lot more powerful. Your story matters. Your pain matters. But, most importantly—your healing matters. And, for women of faith who've been taught to endure in silence—this is your reminder that healing isn't rebellion. It's holy. You don't need to suffer to be worthy. You already are. I hope my story gives you permission to stop hiding, start healing, and finally claim the life that's always been yours," says Jarvis.

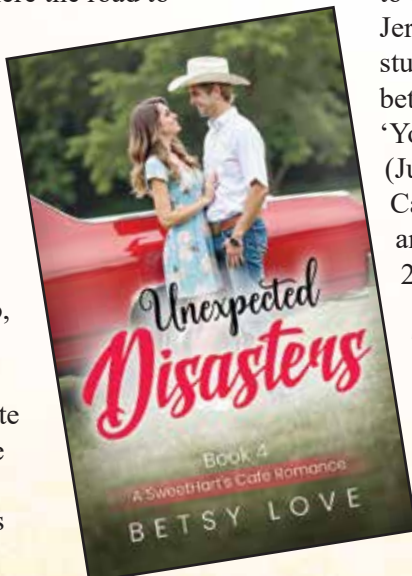
Severed: A Memoir of Hope and Healing is available on Amazon.

Arizona Author Publishes Her 34th and 35th Books

Betsy Love has released two new books in 2025 and is now the author of 35 books. The first new release is *Unexpected Disasters*. The second is book three of the fantasy series *The Mystics Tales*, called *The Dragon's Realm*.

Love says *Unexpected Disasters* takes place in Miracle, Texas, "where the road to happily ever after is anything but easy. The death of Natalie's premature baby led to her PTSD. Only the help of a God-fearing grandpa, Calvin, and his handsome grandson Jericho, can help her find her faith."

The author's favorite character is Calvin, the main male character's grandfather. "I love his faith and wisdom."



A favorite line of Love's from *Unexpected Disasters* is when Calvin says to his grandson, "Yes, I've even taken her to church with me.' Jericho let out a short, stunned laugh. 'I'll bet that caused a stir' 'You have no idea.' (Just for context, Calvin is in his 80s and Natalie is in her 20s.)"

Love's second newly released book is Book Three of the *Mystics Tales Series*. It takes place in a magical world. Love wrote it under the pen name of Izzie Anne Love.

She says, "Can the key to the past save the dragons of the future? Anthony and his friends fight ancient prejudices in this time-travel back to 400 AD. If they don't succeed, not only will



the dragons cease to exist, but all the mythical creatures as well."

Love says her favorite character in *The Dragon's Realm* is a girl named Jayme. "That poor girl has been through so much and always manages to stay positive and come out on top."

One of Love's favorite quotes from *The Dragon's Realm* is "Know what sucks worse than dying? Dying twice. Both times, totally not my fault."

Love shared a few interesting things about herself. "Along with her husband, Betsy Love lives in the White Mountains with two cats, seven hens, and a goose. If she had a horse, she'd spend her day riding."

She says she has been writing books ever since she could hold a pen. She was inspired by "Watching my mom write loopy-loops and realizing those were words."

Love's books are available on Amazon.



Photo by Sarah Waggoner

Author Betsy Love.



Moving Mindfully Stepping Up Your Activity to Improve Your Mental Health



The weather is cooling off (slowly) and its time we can get outside and get moving! Exercise for Arizonans tends to mean fall and winter activities after a long hot summer. Stepping up your activity level is also good for your mental health - as long as we can escape how healthy movement is often made into a stressor with diet culture, unrealistic weight loss or strength goals, or making no moves because its overwhelming. Whatever the world makes of it, physical exercise is a huge part of having a healthy mind.

Modern revelation places a strong emphasis on the importance and care of our mortal bodies. They're a priceless gift from God, and a key to exaltation. We have direct instruction about what to put into and keep out of our bodies with the Word of Wisdom (D&C 89). Exercise plays a key role in the recommendations for youth and missionaries for good health and being fit for service. Perfection isn't required, just our best effort.

To share a favorite quote by President Nelson,

whose medical background informs his teaching:

"Please note: A perfect body is not required to achieve a divine destiny. In fact, some of the sweetest spirits are housed in frail frames. Great spiritual strength is often developed by those with physical challenges—precisely because they are challenged. Such individuals are entitled to all the blessings that God has in store for His faithful and obedient children." ("Your Body: A Magnificent Gift to Cherish," New Era, Aug 2019)

Mental health is physical health. While it's easy to believe the "it's all in your head" attitude of much of the world, it's been proven frequently in the last few years that traumatic experiences, prolonged stress, and other factors actively alter the chemistry and form of our brains - resulting in mental health challenges like depression, anxiety, memory issues, and more.

Over the last 5 years, studies have been published across the world as part of degenerative disease research supporting regular physical exercise as a

highly successful preventative measure. Even and especially for individuals with genetic markers benefit from a simple regular practice of walking.

Also gaining popularity, somatic therapy or somatic movement operate on a deceptively simple concept. Trauma and stress are reflected in our physical bodies, and can be treated by tending our bodies with physical movement. Somatic therapy is most effective when guided by an informed and experienced mental health professional, but some popular ways to approach the benefits are yoga, gentle exercise with repetitive movements, and paying attention to the areas of your body that are chronically tight, weak, or overworked.

Our mental health has everything to do with the gift our bodies are. We can help our minds by moving our bodies, allowing the systems God put in place for our health to fulfill their purpose. Be kind, be careful, and be compassionate with yourself. Not all exercise has to be about perfection or stress.



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On The Lord's Mission

THE STORY OF SISTER CLAIRE SHURTZ

By Katherine Ogden

All photos courtesy of Dana Shurtz

Claire Shurtz was born in South Korea, and came to live with the Shurtz family of Mesa, Arizona as a foster child when she was 13 months old. The night she arrived, her father Gary Shurtz said, "We're not giving her back!" And true to his word, they adopted Claire.

Claire has cerebral palsy, which



Claire Shurtz and her companion Hannah Shoup.

confines her to a wheelchair. She didn't have any hope of ever serving a Church mission, as she didn't meet certain requirements (such as being able to get dressed on her own).

"We had been talking about serving a mission with Claire ever since Gary had retired," shared Dana Shurtz, Claire's mother. We were turned down twice as Claire didn't meet those usual qualifications. Our stake president finally sent a letter of appeal, explaining that she's always happy and she's not a behavioral problem at all. It took us nearly a year and a half to get permission to apply for all three of us to go on a mission."

So, they piled into their specialized handicapped van and drove to their mission field in Kentucky. With several tornados chasing behind them all the way there, Claire asked, "Am I going to be like Dorothy, in the Wizard of Oz?" While her mother and father served

as humanitarian missionaries, Claire was a service missionary, along with her companion, Sister Hannah Shoup.

"We thought that her limitations might slow us down on our mission," says Dana, "but it turned out that Claire's bright spirit really opened doors for us. Everyone loved her and everyone remembered Claire," shared Dana.

"Of the 25 poorest counties in the US, 10 of them are located in Kentucky," explains Gary. The Shurtzs served in homeless shelters, several food banks and a Ronald McDonald House. They served at The Salvation Army every Monday evening, which was Sloppy Joe night and was one of Claire's favorites. They would serve from 80 to 150 unhoused individuals on those Monday nights. One of those they served gave Claire the nickname of "Shortcakes." Joe was in charge of the Food Pantry at the Shively Area



Gary, Claire and Dana Shurtz, serving at the Ronald McDonald House.

Ministries. He would bring Claire donuts with sprinkles every Tuesday. At Christmas time, they helped box 5,000 Christmas dinners in Morehead, Kentucky.

With quite a large refugee population and 8 languages being spoken in the area, they also set up English Connect classes, conducting most of them online. What began with 4 attendees

Continued on pg. 22



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Preparing for Christ's Second Coming

By Jaylene Garrett

Elder Steven D. Shumway of the Seventy taught: “As we participate in God’s work, we prepare ourselves and others for Christ’s return. The Lord’s promise is compelling that callings, ministering, temple worship, following promptings, and other ways we embark in God’s work uniquely prepares us to meet the Savior...as we labor with God in whatever way He asks, we grow into the measure of our OWN creation.” (*Participate to Prepare for Christ’s Return*, April 2025 General Conference.)

Did you catch that? As we serve God, we make choices that help us grow into the measure our *own* creation. “With His loving assistance, He expects us to rely on the merits, mercy, and grace of the Savior to magnify our God-given abilities.” (*Personal Preparation to Meet the Savior* by Elder Dale G. Renlund, April 2025 General Conference.) The type of creation we make is up to us.

President Russell M. Nelson taught “Our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, will perform some of His mightiest works between now and when He comes again.” (*Revelation for the Church, Revelation for Our Lives* by President Russell M. Nelson, April 2028 General Conference.)

I know that also means helping us grow into the measure of our creation.

Did we know all the trials ahead on our earthly journey? “A veil covers our memories of our premortal life. (Our Father in Heaven) has chosen the time and place for each of us to be born so we can learn the lessons

we personally need.” (*Participate to Prepare for Christ’s Return* by Elder Steven D. Shumway, April 2025 General Conference.)

Elder Neal A. Maxwell taught, “We agreed to come here and to undergo certain experiences under certain conditions.” Yes, we saw what we were going to deal with.

Before we came to earth, we had to decide to trust that Christ would be able to save us from all our difficulties. What was it like to watch one third of our brothers and sisters decide to trust that Satan would rescue them from all the difficulties? We had to rely on our Savior even before we saw His miracles on earth.

In D&C 138:53-56 we learn that Joseph Smith, his father, his brother Hyrum, Brigham Young, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, “and other choice spirits ...were reserved to come forth in the fulness of times ...Even before they were born, they...received their first lessons in the world of spirits...”

We did too. We studied for our mission. Our Heavenly Father and Christ help us “fill the measure of our Creation” and complete our mission. We can be blessed to know our mission and the “measure of our creation” with our patriarchal blessing, learning our spiritual gifts, seeking gifts to overcome weaknesses and taking care of our physical bodies. Taking care of our bodies to a higher degree allows our Spiritual DNA to teach us how to be more spiritual. We will then be better prepared for the Second Coming of Christ.

Sister Claire Shurtz Continued from pg. 21

grew quickly to 99 individuals.

When the time came to go home, Claire really wanted to stay on her mission, and even considered bribery in order to do so. “Could I could pay the Bishop some more money,” offered Claire, “if he would let us stay on the mission?”

Their Mission Statement as they were serving was: Serve with loving kindness, as the Savior would. “One of our jobs was to put a ‘good face’ on the name of the LDS church,” says Dana, “and I think we did that. We helped people to understand that we ARE Christians.”

Millennial Choirs & Orchestras Continued from pg. 11

powerful goal to have young children experience the thrill of singing sacred music with an amazing full orchestra is something I have always admired. And there is an emphasis during weekly youth rehearsals on leaving the world behind and feeling the spirit each week. My travels and performances with MCO are some of the best experiences of my life, including memorable performances in Carnegie Hall, the Salt Lake Tabernacle, and the Sacred Grove.”

For additional information, visit millennial.org.

MORE FROM THIS AUTHOR

Jaylene Garrett's message of joy continues

Explore her guide to uniting body and spirit for lasting physical and spiritual wholeness.

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BY JAYLENE GARRETT



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What's Cooking?

By The Arizona Beehive Magazine

SEAFOOD, CHICKEN & SAUSAGE PAELLA

Paella originated in Spain's countryside where farm-hands would simmer, over a fire, short-grained rice in a flat pan, adding whatever edibles were at hand – local vegetables and perhaps a chicken or a rabbit. Along the shore, fishermen would embellish their paellas with seafood.

Traditionally paella is cooked in a "paellera" - a wide, round, shallow pan. A 17-inch paellera will serve from six to eight people, but larger pans also exist.

Prepare your stovetop by straddling the pan over two burners, rotating it regularly to distribute the heat evenly. Turn up the heat in the final minutes of cooking until the rice at the bottom of the pan turns crisp.



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place chicken in zip-loc or bowl with a lid. Add 2 T olive oil, the oregano and paprika and marinade for 30 minutes.
2. Scrub and de-beard mussels and clams, discarding any that do not close when tapped sharply.
3. Heat ¼ c olive oil in the paellera or a skillet. Add the chorizo and warm through to render oils and seasoning.
4. Remove chicken from marinade and add to the pan with the chorizo. Cook until browned on all sides, but not cooked completely through. Remove meats and set aside.
5. Add about 2 T olive oil to the pan and cook garlic, onions, tomatoes, and bell peppers (reserve a few strips of the bell peppers for garnish). While cooking, stir until the onions become translucent and caramelization starts.
6. Add 4 T olive oil to mixture along with the rice. Sauté until rice is translucent. Pour in chicken broth, add saffron and turmeric and stir until well mixed. Rotate pan.
7. Add in chicken, chorizo, peas and capers, combining well. Once combined, do not stir again. Rotate pan throughout the next 10–15 minutes and liquid has been reduced by about half.
8. Nestle the mussels and clams to mixture, do not stir. Allow to cook and just as they begin to open, nestle the shrimp into the mixture. Decorate paella with bell pepper strips and continue rotating until liquid is absorbed and shrimp is no longer pink. Discard any mussels and clams that fail to open.
9. Garnish with parsley, green olives and lemon wedges. Serve still steaming! Serves 6 to 8.

INGREDIENTS

- 10–12 mussels
- 10–12 clams
- Olive oil
- 2 chorizo sausages, cut into chunks
- 1 t paprika
- ¼ t dried oregano
- 2–3 skinless, boneless chicken breasts, cut into chunks
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 large onion, chopped fine
- 1 small red, 1 green and 1 yellow bell pepper, cut into thin strips
- 2 large tomatoes, skinned, seeded and chopped or
- 1 can crushed tomatoes
- 3 c Calasparra or Arborio rice
- 6 c chicken broth
- ¼ t saffron (optional as expensive, but worth it)
- ¼ t turmeric
- Salt and pepper
- 10–12 uncooked shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 4 oz peas
- 4 T capers
- 1 T chopped parsley
- 1 c stuffed Spanish Olives, sliced
- Lemon wedges

By Grace O'Brien



Water Security: Your Family's Liquid Gold (Including Fido's Bowl!)

Water is the foundation of life—and emergency preparedness. In Arizona's scorching heat, a water shortage isn't just inconvenient, it's dangerous. As Latter-day Saints, we understand the importance of self-reliance. President Brigham Young taught, "Store up your grain and water, and be prepared for the unexpected." (Okay, we paraphrased—but the principle is solid!)

Let's make water storage simple, practical, and even fun—because nobody wants to scramble for bottled water if the taps run dry.



Scan for your Water Storage Checklist!

Step 1: Store It Smart

The Church recommends a two-week water supply, but why stop there? Aim for 3–12 months to ensure your family (and pets!) stay hydrated through any crisis.

Quick Storage Tips: 1 gallon per person (and pet!) per day - Fluffy and Fido need hydration too!

Space-saving containers:

- 5–7-gallon jugs (stackable for small spaces)
- 55-gallon barrels (great for garages or backyards)

Flavor boosters: Powdered drink mixes, electrolyte tabs, and hot cocoa keep morale high.

Pro Tip: Rotate water every 6 months, use old water for plants or cleaning, then refill.

Step 2: Filter Like a Pro

Stored water is great, but what if the crisis lasts longer? Time to level up your filtration game.

Budget Option: Brita pitcher + bleach (8 drops per gallon = safe after 30

minutes).

Mid-Tier MVP: Berkey filter (removes 99.9% of contaminants—even Phoenix's questionable tap water).

Ultimate Prepper Flex: LifeStraw or Sawyer Mini (because clean water should be portable too).

Step 3: Find Backup Sources

When the taps stop, where do you turn?

Rainwater Harvesting: Arizona monsoons are rare but powerful - collect every drop with simple barrels under downspouts.

Swimming Pools: Not for drinking, but perfect for flushing toilets or washing clothes.

Local Lakes/Rivers: Map nearby sources (Salt River, anyone?) but always filter

thoroughly—microbes are not invited to this party.

Step 4: Keep It Fun (& Pet-Friendly!)

Water is essential, but let's make it enjoyable.

For You: Shelf-stable juice boxes, herbal teas, powdered milk (because cereal emergencies are real).

For Pets: Extra gallon per pet per week + wet food for hydration.

Final Thought: Start Small, Think Big

You don't need a bunker—just a plan. This month, grab two extra cases of water and a filter. Next month, add a barrel. By next summer, you'll be the most hydrated prepper in your ward—and hey, maybe you'll even share with your ministering sisters (after they promise not to spill the beans to the whole Relief Society).

Stay prepped, stay cheerful, and keep those water barrels full!



JUSTSERVE

Thrifty Shoppers Find Deals, Steals, and Good Feels

By Lin Sue Flood

National Thrift Shop Day took place in August, but any bargain hunter will tell you: *every day* is a good day to snap up a deal. Some of the best steals in town can be found at The White Dove Thrift Shoppes in Phoenix, Glendale, Scottsdale and Mesa, which were just voted “Best Boutique Thrifting” by *Phoenix Magazine* readers. All four locations boast a huge selection of one-of-a-kind merchandise— from collectible books and art; eclectic housewares and all styles of furniture; to jewelry and fashion, both vintage and trendy.

“I always spot something marvelous,” says Pat Latham, who considers herself an experienced Thrifter. “And prices here are the best. Look at this really unique platter... isn’t it beautiful?” She flashes a colorful iridescent flower-shaped tray and confesses, “Yeah, I’m pretty sure there’s more stuff here that I simply must take home!”

Many shoppers intentionally patronize the White Dove stores because proceeds support Hospice of the Valley patients and families in need. As the

million to help ensure no one is turned away. That’s quite an amazing feat, given some items are sold for just a dollar. The stores also have a dedicated volunteer force waiting on customers, creating displays and handling donations that are deeply meaningful to families.



Marilyn is a surprise for a neighbor who loves the Hollywood starlet.

“We are giving back because we’re grateful for the care my father received,” says shopper Peter Eickelberg. “Hospice of the Valley did such a great job — they even had a volunteer come to play catch with my dad when he was still feeling pretty good.”

Wendy Gilbert remembers taking her father to the White Dove before he received hospice care. “It was like a treasure hunt. He was so excited because it was a trip down memory lane for him, finding things from his era. We found it interesting to see what people had collected in their lives.”

It’s fun to speculate about these fascinating treasures. Who used to own the life-size cutout of Hollywood starlet Marilyn Monroe? Who painted the giant fox who looks so real it could dash away? Who donated the heavy metal goblets that bear an inscription from Susie? Did someone actually wear the hand carved wooden clogs?

“Everything has a story,” says White Dove volunteer Janet Barkley, who has waited on customers at the Scottsdale store for the last two years. “Some of the items are so precious. It makes me wonder, was this a gift? Was it bought for a special occasion? I think about the life of that object continuing on. And continuing on with love — because don’t we all buy things we love?”

So, rest assured whether it’s some rockin’ platform sandals, a pristine collection of Jade-ite cups and saucers, a gilded gold tea service, highly sought-after Tommy Bahama glassware or those perfect palm tree-embossed dessert plates you’ve been looking for — there’s something for everyone. And it only gets better when you glance at the price tag.

White Dove Stores

Midtown

2711 E Indian School Rd
Phoenix | 602-957-1204

Glendale

17045 N. 59th Ave
Glendale | 602-942-0011

Mesa

1255 W Guadalupe Rd
Mesa | 480-491-1361

Scottsdale

8641 E McDonald Drive
Scottsdale | 480-609-1190

Every week, there are sales and promotions to entice shoppers, including a Summer Discount Savings Passport, 25% off every Monday for seniors 55 and older and 25% off every Saturday for teachers, students, first responders and military personnel.

For more information, visit WhiteDoveThrift.org.

Lin Sue Flood is Director of Community Engagement at Hospice of the Valley.



This striking platter caught Pat Latham’s eye.

only nonprofit hospice in Maricopa County, the agency cares for all, regardless of financial circumstances. Last year, the stores contributed \$2.5

VALLEY TEMPLE SCHEDULES

Additional Information:

- Appointments for proxy ordinances are encouraged. Patrons without appointments are also welcome, but may be asked to wait for an opportunity to participate. To schedule or modify a proxy appointment, visit your temple’s information at <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temple>
- Patrons are encouraged to bring their own temple clothing.
- Ordinances for family names must be done in proper sequence—baptism, confirmation, Melchizedek Priesthood ordination (males), initiatory, endowment, and then sealing. Please allow sufficient time to perform all the ordinances you wish to complete during your visit. For additional help and information, please call the temple.
- Please contact the temple for more information or if you have special circumstances or needs.
- Temple websites can be found by searching [churchofjesuschrist.org/temple](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temple)

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Saturday, October 4 – Monday, October 20
Wednesday, November 26 (Limited Operations)
Thursday, November 27

Mesa Arizona Temple

101 S. LeSueur, Mesa, AZ, 852014

(1) 480-833-1211

Services: Clothing rental available. No Cafeteria

Upcoming Closures 2025

Monday, September 22 – Monday, October 6
Wednesday, November 26
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Phoenix Arizona Temple

5220 W. Pinnacle Peak Road, Phoenix, AZ 85310

(1) 623-474-9500

Services: No clothing or cafeteria

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